

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 /102 W

----- 107087

R 260835Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8917

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCU

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASS TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3899

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN SHOCKED BY KING'S FAISAL'S ASSASSANATION:
FUNERAL ENVOY NAMED

REF: TOKYO 3845

1. ALREADY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT ME SITUATION (REFTEL), KING FAISAL'S ASSASSINATION STUNNED JAPANESE BECAUSE OF THE NEW ELEMENT OF POSSIBLE INSTABILITY REGIME CHANGE IN SAUDI ARABIA INTRODUCES. FONOFF (FIRST ME DIV DIR WATANABE) DOES NOT ANTICIPATE SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN SAUDI'S POLICIES, INCLUDING MAINTAINING FREINDLY RELATIONS WITH JAPAN AND THE US. NEVERTHELESS, FAISAL'S CLOSE TIES TO THE US, HIS POWERFUL SUPPORT FOR SADAT'S MODERATE POLICES AND EFFORTS
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TO HOLD DOWN OIL PRICES COULD BE JEOPARIDIZED BY A WEAK OR

UNSTABLE NEW REGIME WITHOUT FAISAL'S STRONG INFLUENCE. NONETHELESS JAPANESE BELIEVE KING KHALID AND HIS NEW GOVERNMENT PLAN TO MAINTAIN FAISAL'S POLICIES. DEPENDENT ON SA FOR TWENTY PERCENT OF ITS OIL, JAPAN-SAUDI TIES HAVE EXPANDED RECENTLY AND GOJ SIGNED AN AGREEMENT MARCH 1 WITH SA FOR BROAD ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. AS RESULT. BUSINESS CIRCLES ARE, REPORTEDLY, ALSO PARTICULARLY SHOCKED OVER FAISAL'S DEMISE.

2. BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT TIME TO DISPATCH ENVOY FROM TOKYO, GOJ NAMED CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN JIDDA, MASAH NOGUCHI, SPECIAL ENVOY TO FUNERAL CEREMONIES. AMBASSADOR TO SA, SUZUKI, TEMPORARILY IN TOKYO, IS RETURNING IMMEDIATELY TO SA TO ASSESS THE SITUATION AND DETERMINE WHAT FURTHER GESTURE SHOULD BE MADE. PENDING AMB SUZUKI'S REPORT, WATANABE CONFIRMED THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO SENDING A HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL, PERHAPS A CABINET OFFICIAL, NOT EXCLUDING PM MIKI HIMSELF, TO FORMALLY EXPRESS CONDOLENCES AFTER THE FUNERAL. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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